

*the Epithet Romantic,*

and more fortunate invention, are appointed to victory and triumph. The nature of man still "casts ominous conjecture on the whole success." While *that* is corrupt, it will pervert even the very schemes and operations by which the world should be improved, though their first principles were pure as heaven. The innate principle of evil, instead of indifferently letting them alone, to work what good they can, will put forth a stupendous force to compel them into subserviency : so that revolutions, great discoveries, augmented science, and new forms of polity, shall become in *effect* what may be denominated the sublime mechanics of depravity.

LETTER V.

THIS view of moral and philosophical projects, added to that of the limited exertion of energy which the Almighty has made to attend, as yet, the dispensation of true religion, and accompanied with the consideration of the impotence of human efforts to make that dispensation efficacious where his will does not, forms a melancholy and awful contemplation. In the hours when it casts its gloom over the mind of the thoughtful observer, unless he can fully resign the condition of man to the infinite wisdom and goodness of his Creator, he will feel an emotion of horror, as if standing on the verge of a hideous gulf, into which almost all the possibilities, and speculations, and efforts, and hopes, relating to the best improvements of mankind, are brought down by the torrent of ages, in a long abortive series, to be lost in final despair.

To an atheist of enlarged sensibility, if there could be such a man, how dark and hideous, beyond all power of description, must be the long review and the undefinable prospect of this triumph of evil, unaccompanied, as it must be presented to his thoughts, by any sublime process of intelligent power, converting, in some manner unknown to mortals, this evil into good, either during the course or in the result. A devout theist, when he becomes sad amidst his contemplations, recovers a submissive tranquillity, by reverting to his assurance of such a wise and omnipotent sovereignty and agency. As a believer in revelation, he is consoled by the confidence both that this dark train of evils